

SUSTAINABLE WEST WINDSOR 2007 PLAN

West Windsor Township Environmental Commission
Presentation to West Windsor
Township Planning Board
October 10, 2007

Genesis of Plan

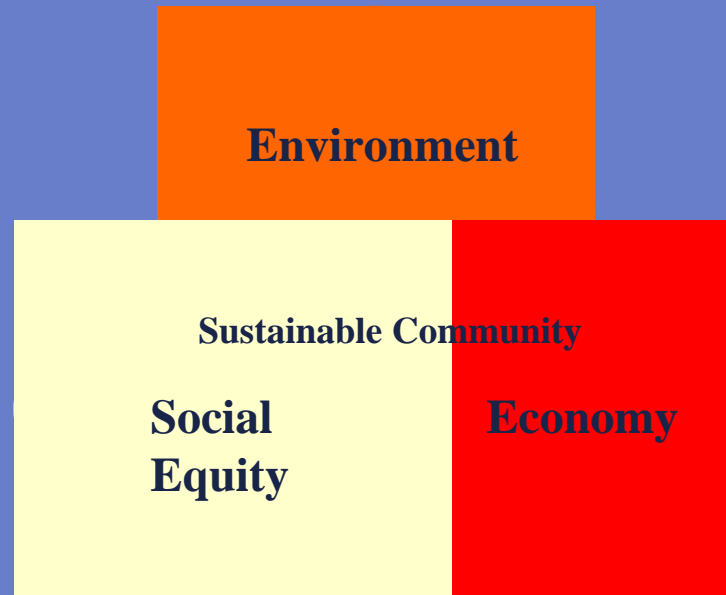
- Sustainability is emerging as a **principle concept** in environmental management
- **Significant challenges:** global warming; deterioration of natural resources, etc., etc.
- Building on and expanding township's **proactive and excellent record** for environmental management
- WW Environmental Commission identified a sustainability plan as the framework for establishing **multi-year action agenda**.
- One of **many US communities** adopting sustainability as new lens for decision-making

What is Sustainability and Why Does it Matter?

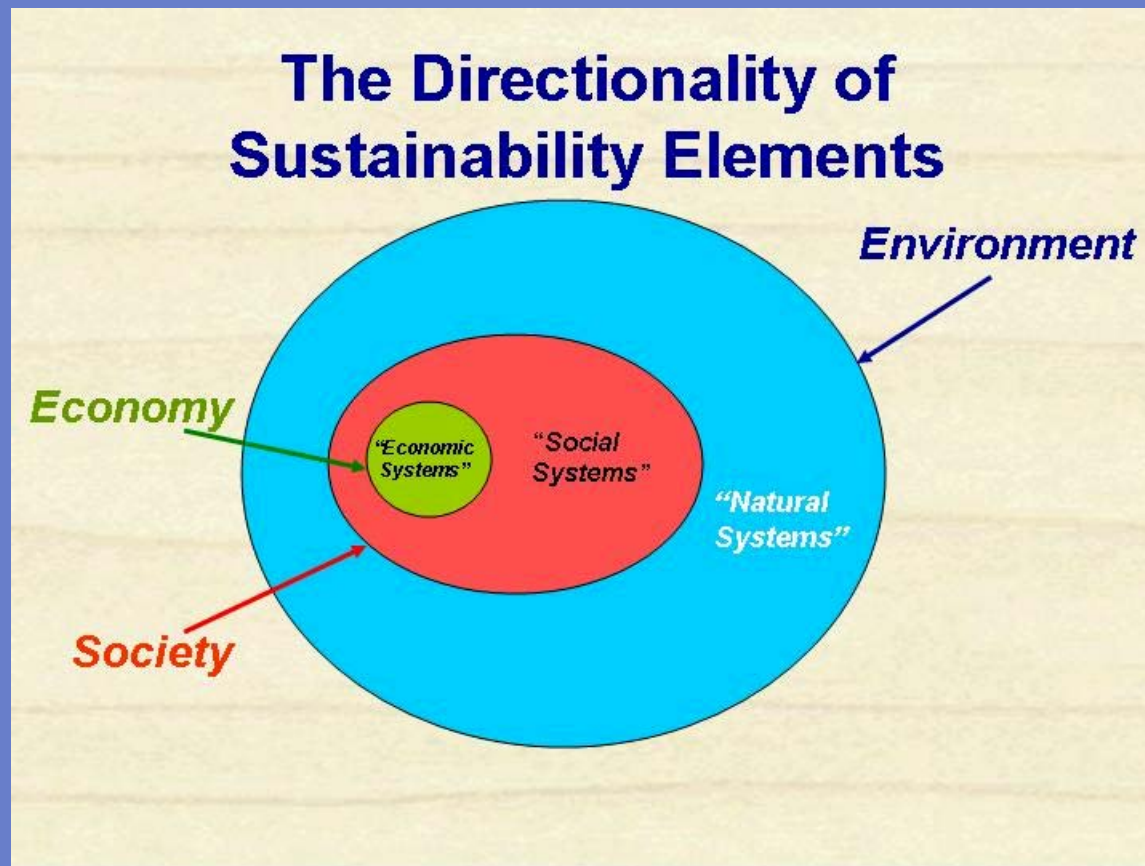
“Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable - to ensure that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.” (World Commission on Economic Development 1987)

The web of mutual obligations between generations is essential for a civilized society ~ Thomas Jefferson

What is Sustainability and Why Does it Matter?



What is Sustainability and Why Does it Matter?



What is Sustainability and Why Does it Matter?

Sustainability =

- quality of life
- balance
- common sense
- think globally, act locally

Planning Process

- Objective: *Improve our residents' quality of life while acknowledging our responsibility to be stewards for future residents.*
- Obtained \$25,000 in external funding (ANJEC; NJDCA); J. Senick & Associates; Rutgers Planning Studio
- Focus on environmental issues and activities...but also identify economic and social opportunities.

What does the plan hope to accomplish?

- Define what is meant by “sustainable” for West Windsor
- Identify specific strategies and actions
- Devise a progress tracking system (targets and indicators)

Sustainability Planning Framework

Mission Statement



Goals

Objectives

Targets

Indicators

Strategies

Actions

LU SC SS **NR** SG
Objective: 4.2

4.2 OBJECTIVE: Develop and implement strategies that reduce energy consumption and that are consistent with West Windsor Township's commitment to the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement

4.2.1 INDICATOR: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions **NR**
(Township-wide emissions of CO₂ (tons per year))

Target: 7% reduction in WWT GHG emissions from 1990 levels by 2012
Continue to reduce the Township's area source carbon dioxide emissions
by 15% every ten years.

*Target is inline with NJ Governor Corzine's State GHG reduction targets
which call for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020,
approximately a 20 percent reduction, followed by a further reduction of
emissions to 80% below 2006 levels by 2050.*

Status: TBD

Strategy 1:

Reduce Energy Consumption and Improve Energy Efficiency among West Windsor businesses through educational workshops, information campaigns, partnerships and incentive programs.

Proposed Actions:

ACT:

- Work with local stores to promote Energy Star products and educate consumers about the Energy Star label. Provide links to ENERGY STAR's product locator and buyer's guide on WWT website. [G, B] NR SS SG (See RC 4.2 under *Energy Efficiency Programs & Resources* for more information)
 - Responsible Party: EC, Twp.
- Hold informational workshops to raise awareness about the Energy Star business partnership programs and the Energy Star Home program. [G, B, I] NR SS SG (See RC 4.2 under *Energy Efficiency Programs & Resources* for more information)
 - Responsible Party: EC, Twp.

42. OBJECTIVE: Develop and implement strategies that reduce energy consumption and that are consistent with West Windsor Township's commitment to the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement.

❖ **Energy Efficiency Programs & Resources**

- **Burlington's 10% Challenge**

<http://www.10percentchallenge.org/>

Burlington's 10% Challenge is a program to encourage individuals, households, and businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to educate communities in and around Vermont on the threat of global climate change to the environment and the economy. The program's goal is to reduce greenhouse gases by 10% below 1997 emissions levels by 2010.

- **Community Energy Opportunity Finder 2.0**

<http://www.energyfinder.org/>

The Rocky Mountain Institute's Energy Finder is an interactive, web-based tool that enables communities to explore untapped opportunities for economic development, pollution prevention, and risk reduction through energy efficiency. It helps any community estimate these benefits and provides details to get them started on their own energy projects

- **Energy Savers: Tips on Saving Energy & Money**

http://www.njcleanenergy.com/media/energy_savers.pdf

This booklet produced by the US Department of Energy highlights things that residents can do to reduce energy at home and on the road.

- **Energy Star Program**

<http://www.energystar.gov/>

The Energy Star[®] program is a federally-backed program aimed at helping individuals and businesses adopt energy efficient products and practices. The program provides guidelines, tools, and resources for energy efficiency measures that are not only good for the environment but make good business

Key: A= ACT: (West Windsor has identified this action as easily accomplished, has committed to do this action, or is in the process of accomplishing this action) E= EVALUATE: (West Windsor will collect information and research the cost/benefits before taking action) C= CONTEMPLATE: (West Windsor will bank these ideas until the right resources and opportunities become available)	Land Use	Circulation	Society	Natural Resources	Government
Sustainable Land Use Actions					
A- Lower minimum parking requirements for new commercial development or set maximum parking requirements instead	•	•		•	
A- Make bicycle facility planning a routine part of the Township's transportation planning. When changes to intersections, traffic signal operations, or travel lane widths are planned, the needs of cyclists are considered	•	•		•	
A- Maintain zoning codes that increase the amount of bike parking as well as develop incentives and/or regulations for new commercial construction to include bicycle facilities such as bike racks, storage lockers and showers	•	•		•	
A- Allow developers to contribute to a shared biking facility in exchange for reduced parking requirements	•	•		•	
A- Identify technical and financial assistance available to support Smart Growth initiatives in the township	•	•	•	•	
E- Encourage sidewalk commerce by zoning requirements that encourage walk-up windows, sidewalk dining and retail displays in appropriate settings	•	•	•		
E- Examine bond financing tools such as RAD and TIFs for use in future projects	•	•	•		
E- Reexamine Township-wide walkability and bikeability assessment; Improve pedestrian and bike access for existing neighborhoods to transit nodes where possible.	•	•	•		
E- Reconnect discontinuous streets and dead-ends to improve neighborhood accessibility	•	•	•		
E- Pass zoning ordinance that allows accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Provide an "ADU How to Manual" for residents	•	•	•	•	

How will the plan be implemented?

- ***Master Plan Reexamination*** – through updates to the Master Plan
- ***Municipal Government*** –through input and collaboration on departmental priorities
- ***Outreach & Education*** – through partnership with community organizations, businesses, and residents